

Hosford PTSA General Meeting, 9/24/14

PTSA Business:

Fundraiser News: Cookie Dough sale ends Monday, Sep. 27

Principal's Report:

Changes for 2014-15:

Two lunch periods; seems to run more cleanly/less overcrowding, less chaotic

Hats are now permitted at school

Advisory has been shifted to shorter daily sessions to increase frequency of interaction between Advisory teacher and students. Resulted in inter-class time reduction from 4 minutes to 3 minutes, except for after-lunch period (5-6 minutes)

Fridays are now encouraged to be "spirit" shirt day (school and particularly college shirts)

New Teachers and Staff (Laura Ruffner/science and math; Caitlin Quinn/drama; Johnston/band; Richardson/life skills, special ed; Needham/ student advocate - SMS)

Construction progress: Elevator is continuing project; projected completion mid-December. Covered walkway built late Sep./ early Oct.

Key-Card system is in place; all doors but front are locked, staff have card-keys. Video system for remote entry if necessary (e.g. wheelchair ramp)

PPS Successful Schools Framework:

What characteristics define successful PPS schools?

Equity as a core value

Positive Behavior Support

School-Family Partnership

Professional Learning Communities

PPS 3 Priorities:

1. Every 3rd grader reading at benchmark by end of 3rd grade
2. 50% reduction of exclusionary discipline and 50% reduction of racial disproportionality in exclusion (suspension/expulsion)
3. Accelerate increase in 4 year and 5 year graduation and completion

Hosford Priority 1: Discipline - Part A Goals

1. Reduce exclusions from 37 to 18 or less
2. Reduce racial disproportionality from 37% to 17% or less

Discipline - Part B

Of 1003 referrals, Black/AA students were disproportionately referred (3-4 times proportion of student population)

Current review in PBIS plc on a monthly basis to strategize for reduction of disciplinary problems

Priority 2 - Reading - Goal

Narrow gap between black and white students by 50%
for 2013-14, 87% of white and 29% of black students met or exceeded state standard

Priority 3 - Math - Goal

Narrow gap by 50%
for 2013-14, 76% of white and 19% of black students met or exceeded state standard

School Culture: make positive behavior system culturally and linguistically appropriate
implement Restorative Justice as discipline philosophy
make data-driven decisions

Family Partnerships:
develop two-way communication with community
focus on college and career readiness
share curriculum and instruction with families

Quality Instruction:
“Big Dogs”: learning objectives, culturally relevant engagement strategies, literacy strategies
align planning and instruction to Common Core
equity team strengthens culturally relevant practices
engage language learners in classroom

“Big Dogs”: Learning objectives for every lesson; Student engagement strategies;
Literacy strategies

Quality Assessment: PD for diagnosing student learning gaps to ensure equitable outcomes; book talk in Content PLCs (A Repair Kit for Grading)

PLCs (Professional Learning Committees)
meet 1-2x / month; use multiple data sources to analyze student progress and engage in strategic practices

Questions: How can parents support proficiency grading (e.g. push students where necessary). “Tough” progress report grades indicate places to work to achieve proficiency; inconsistencies in approach to proficiency grading are expected as teachers adjust

Has district disaggregated discipline data by gender? Yes, but not typically a focus, but a factor that is examined in discussions by Hosford staff

Is the Common Core (and the assessments it brings) the right approach, given losses in instructional time and possibly motivation. Common Core is a key part of Hosford philosophy, including curriculum alignment. Hosford, like most schools, will probably have a tough time with the Smarter Balance testing, which asks new times of questions (including manipulations in technology) in a 7 hour test at the end of the year. Teaching differently (rigor of CC standards) will be focus, rather than preparation for the Smarter Balance test itself.

How will expectations for SB test be managed? With OAKS, focus was on growth target (improvement in individual student scores). Managing student stress and real-life results will be tough; hopefully good advice from pilot tests

Opting out of SB testing? Technically, one can only opt out for religious reasons, though parents have held students home. Test is the first in many that students will face. Test results will be used in student placement, and low participation affects school Report Card. Scores will also be used to improve instruction, as well as familiarize teachers and staff with individual students.

Is equity as a focus true for elementary schools? Equity is supposed to be addressed in every school; is a key focus at Hosford.

Budget Review and Approval:

Budget runs at a small deficit (drawn against prior-year carryover) and conservative estimates of income

Budget approved by acclimation

Announcements:

PTSA membership is still open!

SCRIP is sold Tuesday mornings and at Burgerville fundraisers

Amazon and Fred Meyer rewards can be linked to also fund Hosford PTSA; more info at Hosford website

Foundation continuing to fund teaching positions and is looking for new volunteers to assist fundraising (International Flavors fundraiser)

HEAT:

HEAT program is starting 3rd year, both for fee classes and for no-fee clubs. 130 students, with 15% at reduced fees (\$1200 in discounts for fall 14). Development goals for HEAT is to make the program sustainable (both financially and systemically) in the long term. Program now includes transportation in partnership with school.

Shu Ren: "PTA" supporting Mandarin immersion program. Board co-ordinates homework club and China trip. Board interested in cooperative approach with PTSA for activities like fundraisers.

5K Run: Progressing to an April date, with proposal for 25% Shu Ren / 75% PTSA split of proceeds. Run is open to anyone.

PTSA priorities to support:

Speakers on relevant topics (in the past healthy sexuality, technology and youth, raising girls/raising boys). What are topics that the group is interested in seeing?

Restorative Justice? Bring Amy Lang back? Technology update? Adolescent health/hygiene?